

**REMARKS**

Pursuant to the above-cited notice of a non-compliant amendment to the claims, section 4 C and 4E, the entire corrected section is resubmitted above. Applicant has entered the proper status identifiers of the claims as follows. Previously amended and previously added Claims 10, 14, 28, 36 and 51-54 are now marked as 'previously presented', as required pursuant to the Revised Amendment Practice of 37 CFR 1.121; effective date: July 30, 2003. In addition, supplemental punctuation marks have been entered in currently amended claims 1, 21, 22, 24, 25, 37, 39, and 50, as appropriate for clarity and correctness. No new matter has been entered with the amendment.

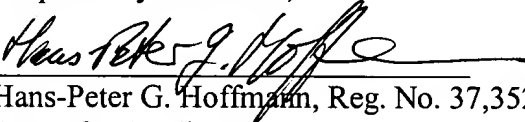
CONCLUSIONS

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims under consideration are clearly patentable over the references of record. It is submitted that the above-identified patent application is in condition for allowance. Early notification of allowance of the pending claims is courteously solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of any fees that may be required 37 C.F.R. §1.16 in connection with this paper transmitted herewith to Deposit Account No. 033-975.

Date: March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



Hans-Peter G. Hoffmann, Reg. No. 37,352  
Agent for Applicant  
Pillsbury Winthrop LLP  
Financial Centre; 695 East Main Street  
Stamford, CT 06904-6760  
Tel.: (203)965-8271  
Email: [hhoffmann@pillsburywinthrop.com](mailto:hhoffmann@pillsburywinthrop.com)